

Michael Enright CBC Radio



### The Sunday Edition from CBC Radio (Highlights)

CBC Radio's The Sunday Edition is a lively three-hour program of conversation, documentaries and music. Michael Enright, an accomplished journalist and broadcaster, is the host and tackles everything from politics to pop culture, in Canada and around the world.

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## December 16, 2012 Edition – The Sunday Edition

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## Sharing, Not Buying at Christmas (Hr. 1)

Sunday, December 16, 2012 | Categories: Episodes | 6

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Over the past century, Christmas has become an annual excuse for frenzied, even pathological consumerism. Sure, it helps businesses big and small, but do we really need all that stuff?

Introducing ... the **Sharing Economy**. Instead of aspiring to own everything they need, people simply have access to it.

Does everyone really need their own snowblower? Couldn't neighbours just share one?

True, Christmas is about giving, and we know it's better to give than to receive. But more and more people argue it's even better to share than to give. Others argue it's better to give nothing than to give something that's bought in a store.

Either way, emerging alternatives to consumerism seek to challenge our way of life and restructure our economy. Sharing networks ... both local and international ... have sparked a movement called collaborative consumption, forming a parallel economy worth hundreds of billions of dollars a year.

**Benita Matofska** is a former broadcasting executive and producer and entrepreneur. She is the founder and Chief Sharer of the British group, *The People Who Share*. And **Aiden Enns** is the co-founder of *buynothingchristmas.org* and the publisher of *Geez* magazine.



(Photo Plin / Mike Estreya)

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ducimus1

2012/12/16  
at 5:56 AM ET

Rating  
8



Last night I watched my wife wrap presents for about 4 hours so I am guessing she wrapped around 35 presents adding to the dozen or so presents I wrapped and all this for around 13 people for whom we buy gifts. This works out to about 3-4 presents per person costing around \$2,000. I am discouraged that we have completely lost sight of what is important.

Dave Johnston

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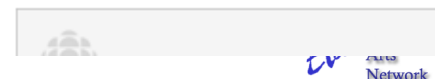
Michael essay about the unchanging gun culture in the US: The dark side of charitable gift giving at Christmastime: Yossi Beilin on the prospects for peace in the Middle East: Newfoundlanders love for Bologna: A memorial to Vancouver's missing women: Ravi Hage on his novel 'Carnival': A personal essay by Patti Morris [MP3 file: runs 98 minutes]

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### Latest Audio



**blakep**  
2012/12/16  
at 10:00 AM ET

Rating  
6

6 0

Excellent segment. My only regret is that we environmentalists spend altogether too much time debating what is the "best" approach to take on any particular issue. Somehow we forget that different strategies engage different people, that a spectrum of approaches are necessary, and that it all matters. Why not support the full diversity of the movement rather than jockeying for positioned as "most enlightened"/perfect position?

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**BJaneShea**  
2012/12/16  
at 11:04 AM ET

Rating  
2

2 0

This year we decided to use some of our resources to bring friends to see us over the holidays. We have started charitable donations as gifts with friends-speaking to them ahead of time to see if it suits them to do the same. We have reduced the number of gifts substantially and it feels so much better. A contribution to and on behalf of others makes some difference in the scheme of thing and a huge difference in the feeling you have to find a perfect at best or suitable at least gift. Much more relaxing to watch the days of December pass!

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**littlefishes**  
2012/12/17  
at 7:35 PM ET

Rating  
1

1 0

thank you CBC - that was a gift to me.  
after 20 years of working on issues surrounding consumerism it's nice to see this conversation getting broader. but geez, 20 years is a long time.  
speaking of Geez, thanks for both guests you had on this one - this segment could have easily slipped into a Capitalism + Sharing sing-a-long, but i think the deeper roots of the issues were exposed -- that of a growth and greed-based economy that externalizes social and environmental costs for today and many generations into the future. so thank you again.  
one thing - your question about the "utopian" dream of these sharing activities - i hope it's now clear to the show and it's listeners that the real Utopian dream is the one we're mostly living in - one that commodifies life through money and profit while knowingly killing the very life support systems on this planet. a great example: the Tar Sands. scientists tell us that if we burn the world's remaining oil reserves it's game over for climate change. so we have the ethical question of our time: do we keep burning carbon in the name of economic progress, or redefine progress itself. i think the sharing economy is one good step i the right direction.  
next up, how about a show on the Commons?

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**Kirsten.Buhr**  
2012/12/16  
at 11:36 AM ET

Rating  
1

1 0

Kids don't miss new goods under the tree if you are spending time with them, creating with them etc. I liked the examples used on the show. Good points. I especially liked the dilemma presented by the MEC example ~"they are my people, but I bear a burden..." that some are left out of that joyful MEC feel. Thanks for being open about that point.

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Stuart Hamilton  
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Michael's Essay: Gun culture in U.S. won't

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Michael's thoughts on the ubiquity of guns in American life.  
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**jamesaywg** Have a read if you haven't already... MT @CBCSunday: Essay on predominating culture in America: GUNS #uspoli [cbc.ca/thesundayediti...](http://cbc.ca/thesundayediti...)  
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**geekyowl** @CBCSunday Another great opening essay. We've heard this rhetoric before. The truth is that gun culture in the US will never change. @NRA  
yesterday · reply · retweet · favorite

**CBCSunday** Lunch counter @ZellersStore gone in #cityofottawa, but memories linger. Doc by @davidgutnick [cbc.ca/thesundayediti...](http://cbc.ca/thesundayediti...)  
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**CBCSunday** .@NRA is in the death business: "must protect the franchise", one reason why U.S. gun culture will never change #uspoli [cbc.ca/thesundayediti...](http://cbc.ca/thesundayediti...)  
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**Scott Emerson**

2012/12/16  
at 12:02 PM ET

I just heard the segment on the radio out in Alberta, and was interested in Michael's push to correlate a religious connection to this movement. I wanted to write in and share what Aiden Enns should have said as a Christian undertaking a Buy Nothing Christmas (no offense Aiden). One of the reasons that gift giving became related to Christmas is at the heart of the Christmas story: Jesus Christ gave himself for all humanity, and out of a recognition of that invaluable gift of forgiveness and life we then can turn and give gifts that bless others too, not as a cheap imitation of what God has done, but in response to the love that has been shown us. Christ gave himself as a gift: he left heaven to live as a human, he lived his life serving the poor and needy, and his ultimate gift was his death, which wipes out or sin before God, and his resurrection, which gives us new life now and in eternity. God didn't come down to present salvation in a beautiful box with a perfect bow; he gave himself and lived among us, serving, loving, and suffering so that we could partake of the gift that he has in store. So if Buy Nothing Christmas has religious roots, it should stem directly from a recognition that we have been given a gift which far exceeds all other Christmas gifts, and that out of thankfulness we should seek to give of ourselves just as Christ has done. Thanks for the great show.

Rating  
-1

**2** **3**

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midwinters essay on the Eclisdy of Amas contents, A look at Grimm's Fairy tales; Frank Faulk's documentary about The Testament of Mary; Listener Mail on Shootings, Xmas consumerism [MP3 file: runs 72 minutes]

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**Brothers Grimm**

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